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Author's Note

Hello people who want/have read this book. This book is kinda older and doesn't really have a backbone to it, but I implore you if you actually take the time to read it. =(^_^)= If you're looking for something to read that is better, please read my newer book; Warriors Darkness Falls. Thanks for your time and cooperation- I think lol.

-Ebonykitty ♡

Prologue

All I remembered in the beginning was the scent of flowers. It's alluring scent filled my mind with beautiful dreams of happiness, cats roaming the earth peacefully, their carefully groomed pelts glistening in the sunshine as their kits ran to a stream full of silver fish. I watched as they all laughed with joy as they lived in this happy world they called their own. Until, one day the flower scent suddenly disappeared. Never in my life had there never been the scent of nothingness. This nothingness filled my nose with bitter sadness and I watched the dreams of happiness for us cats dissappear like a bad memory. All that was left for me, for all of us was hatred, a cold lust that brought us to fight, to hate, to kill one another. Before, there was laughter, now there are tears, tears for what things use to be. Before the world went cold. I knew I had to change this world I had now seen into the world it once was, so I decided to leave the safety of where I lived and venture to Earth where the cats roam, to save them from destruction. So I set out, to save the world they call home. To save my dream.

Clans

ShadowClan and WindClan were killed because of a all clan war, RiverClan and ThunderClan were the last clans left

RiverClan

Leader: *Ripplestar*- a light grey male with large scars all along his face

Deputy: *Ottershade*- a slick brown she-cat with a small scratch mark along the edge of her muzzle.

Medicine Cat: *Lilacpetal*- a white she-cat with a light grey belly

Warriors:

Riversong- black tom with grey along his belly

Puddleleg- small fragile she-cat with a thin grey-white coat

Songstream- gentle white and grey she-cat (mentor to Dustpaw)

Wavestep- a large grey tom with white paws

Ashfoot- dark grey tom

Frostglimmer- white she-cat with small grey spots

Silverleap- silver she-cat

Apprentices:

Dustpaw- light grey tom (mentor Songstream)

Queens/kits:

Rainflower- a light grey she-cat *Echokit*

Elders:

Brokenstep- black tom

ThunderClan

Leader: *Dawnstar*- dark grey she-cat

Deputy: *Adderpatch*- brown tom

Medicine Cat: *Silkfur*- light grey tom with white spots

Warriors:

Squirrelleap- light brown and white mixed she-cat

Ambercloud- light grey she-cat with bright amber eyes

Mouseberry- small brown spotted she-cat (mentor to Oakpaw)

Whiteshine- white tom

Daisyeye- white she-cat with grey paws (mentor to Smallpaw)

Goosefoot- grey tom (mentor to Berrypaw)

Owldust- brown spotted tom

Apprentices:

Oakpaw- dark brown tom (mentor Mouseberry)

Berrypaw- small light grey she-cat (mentor Goosefoot)

Smallpaw- small grey-white mixed tom (mentor Daisyeye)

Queens/kits:

Robinwing- white she-cat with a large black spot on her pelt
Flowerkit, Gingerkit, Mudkit

Elders:

None

Chapter 1

The first thing that I could remember from my adventure on Earth was light, a bright light from my eyes that sent a chill through my spine. I heard my mother's soft voice for the first time.

"She's awake." She meowed gently licking my dark grey forehead. Her tongue was gentle and reassuring, I hoped that I could save this land and the cats whom lived here. "She's beautiful..." I quickly tryed to stand, though in vain. I wasn't quite use to this world. I pulled myself up, my legs shaking from effort. I took a breath holding myself in place. "Take it easy, don't rush things." I turned to see my mother's beautiful blue eyes and her shining light grey pelt in the beauty of the night.

"I want to learn as many things as I can from this world, mother." I meowed padding to the cave's entrance, but before I could leave a large grey tom with white paws stood before me.

"I'm sorry my little one, but you cannot leave until your old enough." I heard the cat gently meow clearly trying to calm me. I thrashed my tail in anger, I needed to see this world's secrets, and fast!

"Wavestep, she clearly doesn't need to be calmed, she's just exited about the outside. Maybe if you explained to her about the clan system, she may calm down." My mother meowed gently, this perked up my interest. I quickly padded to my mother's side, watching as Wavestep padded to me.

"Very well Rainflower..." He meowed half-hearted.

~◇~

I was finally understanding this world more and more every second. Wavestep, my father, explained the whole "warrior system" to me. It

seems that I cannot leave this cave called a 'nursery' where kits and nursing mothers live. I also heard that there isn't just one clan there are two. There use to be more, but since a all out war of four clans only ThunderClan, and the clan I am in now is RiverClan. It's going to be very interesting learning new customs and regulations. Maybe I could even one day be something called a leader. Maybe... maybe if I became the leader of RiverClan I could change their ways! I could save this land if I become leader! That's it! I jumped at the sudden idea.

"I want to become leader, how do I become one?!" I quickly meow looking at Wavestep, but he just starts laughing. "I-I'm serious!" I hiss flattening my ears onto my head. Wavestep and Rainflower looked at each other for a few moments and thin looked back at me.

"Your still much too young, you will have to become an apprentice, thin a warrior, a deputy, and thin after all that you will have to wait until Ripplestar, our current leader, to die. It would take lots of effort on your part, are you sure that's the path you want to take?" Wavestep asked, his face became all the more serious as he spoke. I quickly answer his question with a quick nod and grin. Both Wavestep and Rainflower giggled to themselves, but seemed to understand my preposition. I felt proud of my achievements so far, though I knew deep down that I had a long way to go to help this world they called theirs.

Chapter 2

《Two moons later》

"Echokit! Hey Echokit!" I quickly lifted my head as my sight became clear once more. The memories of the flower scent and the happiness I had once seen in my dreams seemed like a distant memory. It seemed like I'd never get out of this horrid cave. In the time I had been spending in their cave with my mother I began to learn all about the warrior code and a warriors life. It was complicated, but it was a task I knew I could handle on my own. "Echokit! Echokit!" I was snapped out of my thoughts as I heard my name called over and over. I shook my head at Dustpaw's muddy pelt, but his bright eyes could almost melt my heart, what ever that ment.

"Why are you covered in mud...?" I asked as curiosity pickled throughout my pelt. Dustpaw giggled and shook his mud covered fur.

"Wanna join me?" He asked like he was proud of himself, but once he saw that I shook my head his happiness level went from 10 to none. I tilt my head in confusion as he began to sigh.

"Now what's wrong?" I asked poking his belly, but he didn't respond, so I asked again. "Hey, Dustpaw, are you okay?" This time he responded, it seemed he was just lost in thought.

"O-oh, yeah, um sorry about that! I'm just, uh, I was just leaving. See you around Echokit!" Dustpaw meowed happily giving a bright smile as he ran off. He didn't seem so good, what was his problem?

~◇~

I padded over to Rainflower, but once I grew near I heard the voice of another. Was that, Wavestep? I started to listen in on their

conversation.

"Do you think Echokits ready to leave the safety of the nursery for the first time?" I heard Wavestep ask Rainflower.

"I believe she's old enough, she also has a very strong willed heart. Her spirit will prove helpful in the life she will have as a warrior." Rainflower meowed in answer. My face lit up at her words, did this mean I was finally going to leave this horrible place for the first time in forever!? I almost screamed once I heard these words, but I wanted to keep quiet and listen to their conversation.

"Very well... I'll tell her, but I want to be able to keep a good eye on her." Wavestep meowed before padding off in my direction. Foxdung, I need to act like I'm playing or something! I quickly grabbed a piece of moss and started batting it around like I was actually enjoying it, though it was the most boring thing I had ever done in my life.

"Hello father." I meowed happily, for I knew what he was about to tell me.

"Echokit, me and your mother were talking, and we decided you can finally go outside." Wavestep meowed but was suprized to see me jumping up and down.

"I'm so excited!!" I yell rushing to the entrance, but once I poke my head out I see blinding light. I slowly slink back into the nursery. "Geeze it's so bright outside!" I hiss making a sad face as Wavestep walks up to me.

"Indeed, the sunlight is bright today." He meowed giggling to himself. I quickly try again, this time squinting my eyes, which seems to help tremendously. I let out a large smile once I begin to see large green trees, flowers at every corner, a large beautiful lake on my left. Silver fish jump to the surface, bees pollinate the flowers, and the birds sing their morning songs in the trees.

"It's just as I imagined it!" I meowed happily leaping onto a large tree's branch. My claws gently scrapping against its soft bark as I began to climb. I was going to become the best warrior possible and

one day, I will achieve my goal and become the leader of RiverClan. I *will* save this land and all whom live here, that isn't just my dream, it's my reality.

Chapter 3

Where am I? I think to myself for all I see around me is darkness. I quickly called for Rainflower, but I got no response, not even a sound. All was silence. I began to panic once I noticed nothing was changing.

"Hello? Is anyone there!?" I started to call out desperately. My ears began to flatten on my head and I couldn't bring myself to blink.

"So your Echokit, the one who believes she can save RiverClan and ThunderClan. You shouldn't have come to Earth. You should have stayed in the comfortable dream world where you came from." I heard the cold voice and turned to see red piercing eyes in the darkness. The eyes made me feel cold as ice and it sent a shiver down my spine.

"W-who are you, and how do you know about me?" I ask as my I begin to back away from the cold red eyes. The voice began chuckle to himself as he saw me cowering in fear.

"Your a fool little kit. Why not join me in the Dark Forest? I'm sure you could help the clans, you can stop all the fighting, by helping me kill StarClan. I'm sure that's what everyone would want." The voice meowed as the red eyes began to move. A huge black cat apeared before me. His red eyes made him all the more intimidating, but what scared me the most was that his whole body was covered in scars. Not any ordinary scars, but ones so big that it looked like someone had bit a chunk of his flesh out.

"B-but Rainflower told me StarClan was the place where cats go when they die. Why would they want me to kill them? Isn't StarClan good?" I asked the tom, but he began to look aggravated like I had said something horrible.

"Your wrong! StarClan isn't good in any way! Only a fool like you wouldn't be able to see that!" The cat hissed unshething his large blood stained claws. I shook seeing that his teeth were red as well

as his claws.

"I-if anyone's bad, it's you!" I meowed, trying to sound like I wasn't scared, but the fact was that I was more scared than I had ever been. The red-eyed cat started to laugh as the shadows began to engorge him.

"Oh Echokit, what a fool you are..." As the words trailed off the cat seemed to dissappear as well as the darkness. I felt proud of myself, I just hoped the choice I had made was the right one.

Chapter 4

《Three and a half moons later》

It had been forever since I had gone outside. It felt as if someone was draining my energy ever since I had that terrible dream. Rainflower and Wavestep had been worried about me because I haven't smiled for about five moons. I feel like I haven't had enough energy to do anything, it's like I'm in a depressed state.

"Hey, Echokit, your almost six moons old..." I stopped thinking as Dustpaw walked up to me, he was as energetic as ever, but I think he noticed my lack. "Are you okay? You look so tiered..." He meowed like he was a worried mother.

"I-I'm fine..." I managed to say, but at the end of my sentence, I couldn't help but gasp for breath.

"Are you sure your okay?" Dustpaw asked, even more worried than he had been before, great... I quickly nod to his question, but it was a very weak nod which made him seem on edge. "Can we please go see Lilacpetal? Not that I'm worried something's wrong with you, or anything..." Dustpaw meowed looking away from my blue peirceing gaze.

"As you wish." I meow and Dustpaw's face became bright once more as he hopped to the medicine cat's den. I slowly fallowed behind him, out of breath from the effort. It's so close by, but, I felt like I wasn't going to make it... "H-hey, Dustpaw, can you... slow down?" I meowed out of breath. Dustpaw looks over his sholder and sees how utterly exhausted I was and rushed over to my side.

"Here lean on me, I'll help you get there." Dustpaw meowed gently. I smiled at him for the help and leaned onto his side. His pelt was so soft and warm. It was so comforting...

"T-thanks.." I meowed finally able to breathe as we reached the medicine cat's den.

"Of course, that's what friends are for, right?" Dustpaw meowed innocently looking at his paws.

"You want to come with me, don't you..?" I ask and he quickly replys as fast as I ask.

"Yeah.... can I?"

"Yeah... sure..." I meow slowly limping to Lilacpetal's herb scented den.

"Lilacpetal!?!" Dustpaw yells into the den and I quickly wack him in the face with my tail.

"Shhhhhhhhh!"

"Sorry..." He meows sadly looking back down at the ground. I can't help but sigh, he was so easy to control, but he gets way to depressed when I scold him... I turn my attention back to Lilacpetal's den, scanning the area with my eyes and sniffing for any recent scent form her. I slowly enter her den, noticing she was sleeping in the corner of her den, even though it was the middle of the day...? "What a lazy bum-" I quickly hiss at him thrashing my tail at his harsh words.

"Your so quick to judge Dustpaw.." I turn to see Lilacpetal with one of her eyes open half way.

"S-sorry..." Dustpaw meows back dipping his head low to the ground. I sigh and look back to Lilacpetal.

"What's up?" She asks looking at me and thin at Dustpaw.

"It's just, Echokits seemed really drained of energy for quite a while... I seriously haven't seen her smile in five moons, nor outside of the nursery..." Dustpaw meowed, obviously too concerned about my well being.

"Echokit, what's wrong?" Lilacpetal asked me getting up from her

nest to look at me.

"I don't know, I just came here because Dustpaw was clearly over worried about me..." I meowed in answer making Dustpaw look away from us. "I've just been really, tiered-"

"For the past five moons?" Lilacpetal quickly meowed hardening her gaze. "Are you sure you don't know the reason?" I shake my head, remembering the conversation I had in my dream about joining that cat so we could kill StarClan, and that I declined his offer, was that why I was so energy drained?

"I'm fine, I just need some rest." I meow quietly as Lilacpetal looks over me, clearly worried about me, just as Dustpaw.

"I want to examine you before Ripplestar even thinks about making you an apprentice." Lilacpetal meows walking into a diffrent room, the sounds of her rummaging through herbs could be heard from a mile away.

"She's so loud." Dustpaw whispered behind me. I quickly kicked him, sitting down to store the energy I had left.

"Your the one who's loud..." I meow back and Dustpaw clearly begins sulking.

Chapter 5

《Half a moon later》

It had been half a moon since I came to Lilacpetal's den and ever since I went there Lilacpetal was carefully keeping tabs on me. I was exited to become an apprentice, but I felt like I wasn't going to have enough energy to do the job right. Ripplestar had talked to me about becoming an apprentice and I agreed, but I still felt it was pushing my luck right now.

"Let all cats old enough to swim gather!" Ripplestar yells as he leaps onto the giant bolder in the middle of camp. Slowly the clan gathers underneath Ripplestar, his eyes were on me, watching my movements. I slowly pad up to Ripplestar and dip my head in respect.

"From this day forward, until she has earned her warrior name, Echokit will be Echopaw. Riversong, you are a strong and gifted warrior. May you pass down all you know to this apprentice." Ripplestar meows as Riversong slowly pads up to us. We touch noses and Ripplestar calls the meeting to an end.

"For today I think a tour of the clan would be the best idea..." Riversong meowed, his voice sounded so kind, I believe he is a very nice and respected warrior. I will do well to learn from him.

"I'll do whatever you think is best." I meowed in response. He turned to face me and gave a brief nod. He quickly turned and started running, I fallowed quickly behind him, unknowing where we were heading. I quickly found myself at the river shore, a island was placed near the marsh, a log with claw marks along it was placed in between the gap of land.

"That's the gathering area. You will most likely go the next time we gather." Riversong meowed gazing fondly at the island.

"Isn't that part of out territory? Or is it all of the clan's?" I meowed,

wondering about clan life.

"It isn't exactly out territory... we all share it, but when the gathering isn't going on, you could call it ours." Riversong meowed as he turned his back to the island. I quickly copied his movements, now exited to see what the rest of the clan looked like.

~◇~

Once Riversong had shone me around all of camp and our territory, he came to a stop at what Rainflower had called the apprentice den, where I was now going to sleep. Exitement pickled throughout my pelt as I thought about the things I'd do tomorrow.

"Get some rest so that tomorrow you can work hard!" Riversong meowed happily, letting me know he was exited about tomorrow as well. I nodded and skipped into the apprentice's den, where Dustpaw was already sleeping soundly. I tip-toed to an empty nest next to him looking at his peaceful face. He's looked so much nicer when he's not blabbing mousebrained things. I gently placed myself into the nest, but while trying to get comfortable, I seemed to wake him.

"Mmmm, Echopaw?" Dustpaw meowed still half asleep.

"Yeah, sorry to wake you, go ahead and sleep." I meowed gently, but despite me telling him to sleep he quickly got up.

"How was your day?" Dustpaw meowed yawning after his sentence.

"It was amazing!" I meowed happily, though I was exited about becoming an apprentice, I still had a long way to go before I became a warrior, let alone leader. I started to sigh, which seemed to get Dustpaw's attention.

"Are you okay? Are you getting tiered again? Is this apprentice stuff too much? Do you want me to get Lilacpet-"

"Dustpaw!" I quickly cut him off, and he seems to notice how frantic he was. He sounded like a worried mother, goodness!

"S-sorry..." He meows lowering his head, he gets so worried and

thin he starts sulking when I tell him that's what he's doing. Man, sometimes I just can't handle him!

"It's okay. I'm fine, really, I'm actually starting to feel better." I meow sighing, giving a little smile in the process. My strength was returning, little by little, but why was it? Why did I become little of energy in the first place..? I wondered these things to myself, but I was quickly snapped out of my thoughts when I noticed Dustpaw staring at me intently. "Are you, okay?..." I ask tilting my head. He quickly shakes his giving a nervous smile.

"Sorry, was I staring to long?" He asked nervously as he looked around, as if avoiding my gaze.

"It's fine...?"

"Heheh, anyway let's get some rest, hopefully we can train together tomorrow!" Dustpaw meowed lying back into his reed nest. I nod, doing the same, wondering about the activities we would do in the morning.

"Goodnight Dustpaw."

"Goodnight."

Chapter 6

I felt a warm breath touching my neck. It was so comforting, it was like Rainflower was cuddling me. I leaned in closer as the warmth grew. I could stay here forever, this warmth, this feeling, it was heartwarming. I want it to last forever, this moment...

"Echopaw, what a fool you are." I suddenly heard that cats voice, his peirceing red eyes still haunted my mind.

"G-go away!" I hissed running away as fast as I could. Why was he there, why does he still haunt me!? As I run, I hear his laughter behind me, his voice filled the darkness around me. I felt my paws ache as I ran away. Leave me alone, what do you want from me?!?

"Echopaw! Echopaw! Wake up!" I hear a voice calling out to me from the darkness. As I walk to it, a bright light lights from the darkness. I quickly fallow it's radiant light, my heart filling up with warmth once more. "Echopawwww?" I lift my head to see I was literally snuggling on top of Dustpaw.

"D-Dustpaw!!??" I meow quickly moving away from him, my face felt hot with embarrassment. "S-sorry!" I meow quietly, unable to meet his gaze. So he was the warmth I longed for, that's weird...

"A-are you okay you were talking I'm your sleep..." Dustpaw meowed, being a worried mother again.

"Yeah.... what did I say?" I asked as Dustpaw moved closer to me.

"Nothing... are you sure your okay?" He asked looking into my blue gaze and I nodded. Was he hiding something from me...?

"Hey, Dustpaw, Echopaw, wake up time to tra-" Suddenly Riversong walked into the den while me and Dustpaw were still pelt-to-pelt. We quickly looked at each other and moved away, embarrassed.

Riversong walked in and coughed looking at me.

"Do you want to train with Dustpaw..?" He asked slightly glancing at Dustpaw. I quickly nod with a slight smile.

"Yes please!" I meow, rising to my paws, but for some reason they felt heavy... was it because of all that running I did? No, it couldn't be, that was just a dream! Wasn't it...? I get snapped out of my thoughts when Dustpaw nudged my sholder.

"Coming?"

"Uh, yeah!" I meow in answer fallowing Dustpaw and Riversong out of the apprentice's den.

~◇~

"So, Songstream can't be here today because she got a sprain and Lilacpetal said she needed to rest for several days before she can train Dustpaw again." Riversong meowed after coming from the medicine cat's den.

"Really!? Is she okay!?" Dustpaw asked, a worried look plastered on his face. There he goes again, being worried.

"She'll be fine after some rest." Riversong meowed comforting Dustpaw, looking back at me. "Echopaw, Ripplestar said that Dustpaw could train with us for the time being, if this is okay with you." As Riversong meowed these words Dustpaw almost jumped from exitement. I turned to Dustpaw's exited face, sighing.

"It's fine by me.." I meowed shrugging, but Dustpaw seemed so exited he couldn't hold it back.

"This is so exiting!" Dustpaw meowed as we walked to the training hallow. "Are we going to practice hunting, or battle skills first!?" He asked Riversong, but Riversong didn't answer, he just turned to me, again.... was everything up to me, or was he just torturing me!?

"Battle training sounds fine." I meowed in answer as Dustpaw happily skipped along. He was really enjoying this, wasn't he... as we reached the training hallow Riversong stopped and began

explaining what I would learn today.

"For today I just want to do something simple. Dustpaw come here." Dustpaw nodded and walked over to Riversong as I sat to watch. "Today I'm going to demonstrate the front paw blow. This is a frontal attack where you bring your front paw down hard on your opponent's head. Make sure your claws are sheathed, they don't have to be, but there's no point because your not clawing at anything." Riversong explained as Dustpaw came at him. He quickly jumped in front of Riversong and attacked straight at him, slamming his front paw, just as Riversong had explained, onto his head with a loud thud. Dustpaw was so quick on his paws, he also knew when to strike, I want to be stronger than him. I want to be fast, smart, clever, and a good leader. I just need to learn all that and I can save everyone! I thought to myself proudly, but Qasim quickly snapped out of my though when Riversong talked to me. "Why don't you try it Echopaw?" Riversong meowed signaling for Dustpaw to take his place. We both nodded and I stood up, quickly running twards Dustpaw. I kept my claws sheathed as I jumped up and slammed my fore paw on his head.

"Like that?" I asked moving away from Dustpaw. Dustpaw and Riversong nodded as Dustpaw sat.

"Make sure you land your paw harder though, you don't want to just lightly tap them on the head, you want to hear a loud thud." Dustpaw meowed as I remembered the loud thud noise after he landed his paw on Riversong's head. I nodded and made a defensive stance.

"Again." I meowed as Dustpaw got up. I will become stronger than him, stronger than everyone. I will become leader, and thin I can save everyone! No matter what that cat says, I'm not a fool, and I can do this, no I *will* do this!

Chapter 7

It had been a few days after I began training with Dustpaw and Riversong. They taught me diffrent beginner moves, defensive and offensive.

"Hey, Dustpaw, can you teach me some new moves?" I asked Dustpaw as we were about the leave the training hallow. He tilted his head in confusion at my words, for Riversong had already left.

"What, you mean without Riversong?" He asked giving a slight worried smile.

"Come on! I need to get stronger!" I meowed, almost hissing, making Dustpaw jump back in suprize. He gave me a soft laugh and slowly answered my question.

"Ahhh, very well, but just so you know. I won't go easy on you like Riversong does." Dustpaw meows squinting his eyes. I laugh at his proposal, and meow something I shouldn't have.

"Bring it." Once those words slipped out of my mouth all hell broke lose. Dustpaw came at me so fast, I couldn't even see him. He jumped right on top of me, faster than the blink of an eye, I was already pinned to the ground.

"You were saying?" Dustpaw asked, a mrrow of laughter rasped in his throat, making me hiss.

"Get off me!" I hissed clawing at his belly, but he grabbed my paws and pinned all my legs with his.

"Don't be silly, you think it'd be that easy? I'm Ripplestar's son, I think I'd be a little stronger than that." Dustpaw meowed sticking out his tongue. I didn't find his humor the least bit funny! I quickly began struggling, but his weight over weighed mine and I struggled

meaninglessly. I couldn't help but hiss as his face grew to a bright smile. That jerk.... I could try to go limp, and thin once he becomes less tense I could try escape! I slowly let myself grow limp, which seemed to suprize him. "Your fast to give up..." He meowed so full of himself, I couldn't help but laugh as I struggled once more, catching him off guard. I somehow escaped his grasp and ran to a nearby tree.

~¤~

"*If your going up against a somewhat larger opponent your going to want to get on top of him, you may want to leap on him... but if this isn't possible, and he's also faster than you, you need to use this." Wavestep explained to me as I nodded. He quickly ran to a nearby tree pushing his weight to the tree, but he quickly leaped from it and landed hard on me. He pinned me to the ground, but I couldn't brake free. I needed to be quick, and use all my weight to make my blow even harder.*

"Can I try it now!?" I asked him happily as I skipped to the nearby tree.

"Echokit, just remember, you need to be careful of their movements. You shouldn't fight someone recklessly, study their movements and think about their possible next moves." Wavestep meowed, while watching me try to push against the tree. He suppressed a mrrow of laughter as he ran to me, a smile on his face.

~¤~

I quickly ran to the tree, pressing all of my weight onto it, as I push against it, air gathered around my body as I twisted into a spiral lanch. I heard a loud thud as I landed square on top of Dustpaw. I quickly pinned him to the ground, as he had done to me and let out a sigh.

"That was unexpected..." Dustpaw meowed also letting out a sigh. I couldn't help but hiss at his words, he was full of himself, gets worried easily, says mean things, and was, was everything I liked in a person.

"Your really helpless! I hate you, geeze." I hissed looking away from him, but he took this as a moment of freedom. He quickly pushed

me off, and came toppling on top me. "Ugh, hey, that hurt!" I hissed barring my teeth at him.

"You should never turn your head away from an opponent, they'd take it as an opportunity to over power you." Dustpaw meowed as his eyes sparkled into the moonlight. I looked up as the silverpelt sparkled overhead. I couldn't help but sigh as Dustpaw's weight crushed my insides.

"H-how long are you going to stay on top of me? It's... it's starting to hurt..." I meowed as he widened his eyes at my words.

"Oh s-sorry!" He meowed quickly getting off me. Geeze he was a helpless fool! I shook my head as I quietly walked over to him, his face looked worried and embarrassed, geeze could I even handle someone like him? As I walked over to him he seemed to wake up and looked into my eyes. I slowly touched my nose to his cheak as he rested his head on my sholder. "I'm glad your here too." He meowed quietly as he lift his head and smiled.

"Your a bigger fool than I though." I meowed sighing, but he just laughed rolling his eyes. "Let's go again!" I meowed happily as I took a defensive stance.

"Look who's the fool now!" Dustpaw meowed laughing, taking a defensive stance as well. "Your on!" He meowed leaping at me once more. I'm glad Dustpaw's with me, hopefully he can help my goal even more real.

Chapter 8

《One Moon Later》

It had been a moon since I began to secretly train with Dustpaw at night. He taught me some special moves, and told me about ThunderClan. He told me how they normally ate only mice, instead of fish. I thought the idea was discussing, and repulsive. Not only did I learn new battle moves, Riversong also taught me how to hunt mice, fish, and birds. It was all tricky at first, but I quickly caught along. As the time grew near for the next gathering, my exitement grew more and more every day.

"Guess what day it is!" Dustpaw meowed happily as we took a small walk through the forest.

"I'm not sure, your a crazy mousebrained fool day? Oh, wait, that's every day..." I meowed letting out a mrrow of laughter.

"Hey! That's so collddddd!" Dustpaw meowed sadly, giving another 'my life is horrible' face. He would do those every time I said something that was clearly funny. As we padded through the forest, we came close to the WindClan's old border, which was now part of our territory, not that we ever used it... "Wanna go explore?" Dustpaw meowed as he began thinking stupidly again.

"No, are you stupid!? We would get in soooo much trouble!" I meowed as I though of what Wavestep would do if he found out I went into WindClan's territory without telling Ripplestar, and, that I went with *Dustpaw!* Even Wavestep knows how stupid he can be sometimes. I think even Ripplestar himself knows how stupid his son can be, which is kinda sad...

"Echopaw, we wouldn't get into trouble, if no one catches us." Dustpaw meowed happily as he let out a large grin. I shook my head as I turned my back to the border. Dustpaw fallowed quickly

behind me as I walked away. "Come on Echopaw! Pleaseeee!?" Dustpaw begged as I continued to walk away.

"No."

"Pleaseee!?"

"No."

"Your no fun!"

"No."

"Really I didn't even ask that time.." Dustpaw meowed as he lowered his head in defeat. I let out a sigh as we padded back to camp, passing the two-leg's place on the way. I crinkled my nose as the scent of feces and a mixture of a diffrent animal hung in the air.

"Ugh, that's nasty!" I hissed as I started to quicken my pace. Dustpaw laughed behind me as we reached the stream that blocked us from RiverClan camp and basically the other side of our territory. I carefully placed my paw onto one of the stones, one after another, but Dustpaw just swam quickly across, like some big show off. "Show off." I meowed leaping across.

"Eh, what can I say, it comes to the best of us." Dustpaw remarked as we both padded back to camp.

~◇~

Once we got into camp, Ripplestar was gathering the whole clan for a clan meeting. Looks like we got here just in time!

"He's probably going to anounce who's coming to the gathering! " Dustpaw meowed as he hopped up and down. He's like a kid sometimes, really!

"Why didn't you tell me today's the gathering?" I asked Dustpaw, but he hushed me with his tail as Ripplestar began to speak.

"For the gathering I'd like; Ottershade, Lilacpetal, Riversong, Puddleleg, Wavestep, Ashfoot, Dustpaw, Echopaw, and Rainflower."

Ripplestar meowed as we all gathered into a line. I had no clue what to do, so I just fallowed Dustpaw. Ripplestar padded to the front and led us to the island. I watched as ThunderClan passed us and was already heading onto the island. The last ThunderClan warrior lept onto the log, and Ripplestar fallowed behind. I was so exited I could barely stay still! My fist gathering, and there were many more to come!

Chapter 9

As we all gathered under a large tree in the center of the island, the two leaders jumped onto their individual branches.

"Welcome back to another gathering! I would like ThunderClan to report first." Ripplestar meowed respectfully dipping his head.

"Thank you." Dawnstar, the leader of ThunderClan, meowed dipping her head in response. "ThunderClan has had a very lush green-leaf, and we hope it will continue to stay that way as well during leaf-fall." Dawnstar meowed as she looked apon all the clans, her bright amber eyes gleamed in the moonlight. He grey coat reflected the moonlight, it was almost like a piece of art. "Flowerkit, Gingerkit, and Mudkit have all received their apprentice names. We now welcome these three new apprentices: Flowerpaw, Gingerpaw, and Mudpaw!"

"Flowerpaw, Gingerpaw, Mudpaw!" Loud yowls arose from ThunderClan as they cheered for their new apprentices. Dawnstar dipped her head and looked up at Ripplestar. He quickly nodded and began to speak.

"RiverClan has had a very peaceful and plentiful green-leaf. We also hope that leaf-fall will be just as peaceful for both clans." Ripplestar meowed giving a slight smile. "We have a new apprentice in our clan, Echopaw, she seems to be taking training very seriously, and I feel she will be a great warrior to come." Ripplestar meowed cheerfully.

"Echopaw, Echopaw, Echopaw!" I began to feel embarrassed as both ThunderClan and RiverClan cheered my name, but out of all of the voices, Dustpaw's was the loudest. I turned to him, poking his stomach with my fore paw.

"Shut up you idiot!" I half whispered, hiding a hiss of anger.

"That is all for the gathering! You are dismissed!" Ripplestar yowled as both he and Dawnstar lept from the tree.

"Dustpaw! Your so embarrassing!" I hiss at him, showing just how angry I really was.

"Don't be like that... I'm just proud of you." Dustpaw meowed, his eyes sparkled with enthusiasm and his pelt stood on-end.

"Your sooo hopeless... I meowed, half laughing to myself. "Your an embarrassment."

"You know it." I quickly turned to the sound of the voice, it was Ripplestar?!

"R-Ripplestar!?" I meowed nervously, turning to face Dustpaw's father, and my leader.

"It's so good to finally meet the Echopaw my son has been nonstop talking about." Ripplestar meowed happily as a purr rumbled through his throat. Dustpaw glared at his father, letting out a hiss.

"Thanks dad."

"Just keeping it real son." He meowed back in answer as he turned back to me, whispering into my ear. "Keep an eye on him for me, you should know the best of all of us of how stupid he can be sometimes." He meowed laughing at the end. I nodded, adding to his comment.

"I definitely understand. And I would be honored." I turned to Dustpaw who was watching us, his face looked confused, but he was still embarrassed looking. "He can be a real idiot sometimes... but sometimes he..." I stopped my sentence right after I noticed that not only Ripplestar was listening, but Dustpaw as well. I quickly closed my mouth shut and didn't say another word.

"What'd you say, go on, continue!" Dustpaw meowed happily grinning, as if to antagonise me.

"Shut-up." I hissed, quickly padding away from him and Ripplestar, but I could still hear them laughing from behind me. Will I ever

learn, everyone is a stupid fool!

A Closer Look At Echopaw

[image]

*Hey guys, sorry to stop the story for a second, but I wanted to show you just what Echopaw really looks like. I actually have drawn her, and I already made the second books cover, with the drawing included, so look forward to the second book: A Red Sunset! I have been thinking about this series, and so far, it's been kinda boring. I wanted to make it a little more spicy, so I'm going to start making twists! ^_^*

Please feel free to comment if you like EchoDust x3 it would be much appreciated if I knew you guys likeed the couple!

Echopaw:

Age: 7 moons (seven months)

Gender: Female

Mate: Dustpaw (they haven't announced it yet, but who knows o3o)

Just if you guys are wondering Dustpaw is currently 10 moons old

Chapter 10

As I stormed away from Ripplestar and Dustpaw, I accidentally bumped into something, I instinctively jumped back out of suprize.

"Sorry, are you okay?" I look up, as I begin to realize I bumped into another cat.

"O-oh my gosh, I'm so sorry! I didn't realize, I mean, I... sorry.." I meowed as I felt my face grew hot. The cat I bumped into was a handsome dark brown tom, he had a large scratch mark on his sholder, and part of his right ear was torn. He was about my size, and looked only a little older than I.

"Hi, I'm Oakpaw, you just be Echopaw." He meowed, and I opened my mouth as he spoke my name.

"H-how'd yo-"

"How'd I know? That's easy." Oakpaw meowed giggling as he looked past my gaze to my sholder. I began to feel someone's hot breath on my ear, and I quickly turned my gaze to the breath.

"D-Dustpaw!? You talk about me to even your ThunderClan friends!?" I asked as my face now burned with embarrassment. "Your father was bad enough!..." I meowed lowering my gaze to the ground. Dustpaw just shrugged, and began to giggle with Oakpaw.

"Why can't I talk about you?" He asked, as he brushed my pelt with his. I looked into his eyes and swiftly answered his question.

"**Because it's embarrassing!**"

Oakpaw and Dustpaw tryed to hold in their laughter, but couldn't hold it in for long. They both burst out with laughter as I thrashed my tail.

"Ooooh that's it Dustpaw!" I hissed storming off to Riversong. I let out a long sigh as I listened in on the conversation he and Frostglimmer were having.

"I hope leaf-fall isn't as bad as it was last year." Frostglimmer meowed as Riversong nodded in agreement.

"Seeing how leaf-fall is in half a moon or so, hopefully it is warm for as long as possible. We have more mouths to feed, seeing how Ashfoot is most likely retiring soon." Riversong meowed, as I turned my gaze to the elderly cat. Ashfoot's muzzle was turning a light grey color, and covering his black pelt to a grey color. His age was clearly showing, and even Ripplestar could see the elder warrior was soon to retire to an elder. Seeing how Ashfoot was now the 3rd in command, because of his age and experience, he would have to step down from his position. The first cat I would think of as next in command would be... Puddleleg. She was younger than some, but she was a very experienced and skilled warrior in battle, as well as hunting.

I slowly padded away from Riversong and decided to talk to Ripplestar, seeing how I still wished not to see Dustpaw's face. Just as I was about to say something to him, Ripplestar called RiverClan to line up for home. I quickly go into the line that began to form behind Ripplestar. So far, I loved gatherings, I wonder what it was like with ShadowClan and WindClan... as I thought RiverClan padded back to camp. My legs were sore, and I was just now starting to felt the affects of not sleeping half of the night. My muscles were developing, but I still got tired. As we reached camp, I noticed Dustpaw was trying to get my attention, but I just turned my back to him and continued on my way to the apprentices den. I silently entered the den, hearing Dustpaw behind me. I padded over to an empty nest in the corner of the den and plopped down into it, away from my normal nest location. Dustpaw can really aggravate me sometimes. That why I just need some space, but he never realizes that... I think as Dustpaw comes over to talk to me. He *neve*r gives me enough alone time, even when I'm practically begging to be left alone. I let out a sigh.

"Hey, Echopaw, I'm sorry if I did anything to offend you, or hurt your feelings." Dustpaw meowed sympothedically. I let out another

sigh and calmly answered him back.

"It's alright Dustpaw, I just need some alone time right now." He quickly caught on and nodded, padding away giving me some much needed alone time. One good side to Dustpaw, he always catches on faster than any would expect. I close my eyes, letting the darkness envelope me, and I feel into a deep sleep.

Chapter 11

I felt myself grow hot, and thin suddenly cold. Why did I feel this way? As I slightly opened my eyelids, I saw a cat standing before me.

"Hello Echopaw, it's great to finally meet you." The cat meowed gently as a light was surrounding the area around the unknown figure's body. The light was so intense that I had to squint.

"I'm sorry, should I know you?" I asked as the light started to dim down.

"I wouldn't expect you to know me. This must be your first time talking to a StarClan warrior." The cat meowed, as I was finally able to fully open my eyes. Standing before me was a beautiful white she-cat, her eyes were an emerald green color, and she was groomed beautifully. "My name is Silverwillow, it is a pleasure to be in your presence." Silverwillow meowed gracefully dipping her head. I dipped my head back.

"The pleasure is all mine." I meowed back as we both smiled to each other.

"I'm sorry to have to bring you here, but there's no time to explain." Silverwillow meowed as her voice now rang with worry. "I have a prophecy, I would suggest telling this to Ripplestar and Lilacpetal as well." Silverwillow meowed clearing her throat. "Echos of the past now reflect off the wind, rain, sun, and clouds. It is up to the powers of one alone, to save the clans." Silverwillow meowed as her words began to trail off. Her body began to dissappear, but I was confused of what she had just told me.

"Wait don't go! Please, explain to me what that means!?" I meowed frantically looking for Silverwillow, but she was already gone. And now, I was alone, I began to walk through the darkness, until I

came apon a border of light. What was this? Should I cross it? I took a small step over the light border, and all the darkness I saw, everything came swirling tward me. I screamed, running as the shadows were playing a game of tag with me. I ran as fast as I could, before falling into a small hole. I felt anothers pelt touching my own in the pitch black. I heard a soft laugh echo through the darkness. I know to voice... it was *that* cat, the one who haunted me! I yelped and closed my eyes, but once opened, instead of seeing darkness I saw the apprentices den. Dustpaw standing in front of me.

"You awake Echopaw?" He asked, looking at my face like a worried mother, again...

"Y-yeah, I'm awake." I meowed giving a weak smile. I stood, feeling how weak my legs now were. They began to trimble once I took a paw step. "Fox-dung...." I hissed under my breath.

"What's wrong?" Dustpaw asked once he noticed I wasn't moving.

"N-nothing." I meowed back as I forced myself to move but pain still bit at my legs. I bit back a cry of pain as Dustpaw and I walked out of the apprentice's den and into the sunlight? No, it wasn't warm, it wasn't cold either. Something felt, off.... "Dustpaw what's wrong with the sky?" I asked as I looked up to the dark cloud sky.

"Oh, have you ever seen *rai*n before?" Dustpaw asked me as he looked up at the dark sky. I shook my head and took in a large breath of air. It smelled somewhat strange, kinda like a stream, but it was diffrent. It was hard to describe the smell... I padded over to Riversong, half limping. I tryed to hide how much pain it caused me to walk, I wanted to talk to Ripplestar about my dream. Silverwillow told me to talk to him and Lilacpetal about it.

"Riversong-" Riversong quickly covered my mouth with the tip of his tail. I stopped talking and looked at where his gaze was directed. There was a body of a cat lying in the middle of a large group of cats, Ripplestar was perched on his stone, and Rainflower was hanging her head over the body.

"Echopaw, you better go to your mother." Riversong meowed, greef

was in his voice, what happened!? I slowly padded over to Rainflower, looking at the body I could see it was covered in blood, motionless. It was a grey cat, his scent smelled familiar... but where from... his face was so torn it was hard to tell... wait... was that! **No!** It was Wavestep! No, it couldn't be! I let out a wail of sorrow as I now realized my father was lying dead. I felt tears flow into my eyes as I walked closer to his cold body. I felt my legs finally give in as pain swelled into my chest. I tryed to hide how much it hurt, how the pain didn't only affect my heart, but as well as my head. I tryed to stand, holding my tears back, but I couldn't, I couldn't stand anymore. My legs wobbled, and I came crashing head first to the ground. I felt a small tear leave my eye, and I felt a pelt brush against mine.

"It's okay, you can cry." I heard Dustpaw's voice meow, but I didn't look up from the he ground I just stood in place, I had to be tough, I wouldn't allow myself to cry! I held back my tears as I rasped out a question.

"*Who did this*." My question echoed through the clearing as all eyes were dead on my pelt. My ears were back on my head, and my claws unsheathed. I felt my breath becoming hot, and I felt a growl emerge from my throat. Ripplestar lept from his stone and padded over to me.

"We don't know." I looked into his green eyes, his eyes were filled with sorrow, just as everyone else's, but mine *min*e were filled with rage. I was going to kill who ever did this. I will find them and KILL them! I let out a hiss of anger as tears once again threatened to over power me, but I wouldn't let that happend, no it wouldn't happen, ***ever***. I will never allow myself to cry, no matter what. I felt my tears quickly retreat as these words echoed through my mind, those words would forever stay stuck in my mind.

You will never cry, no matter what.

Chapter 12

I was torn, my heart was torn. I felt my heart cry out in pain as I stared at my father's cold, dead, body. The tears never came back once I told them they would never escape my eyes. My ears were still plastered to my head, and my claws had been dug into the soft soil. Dustpaw's warmth was wrapped around me while I was mourning Wavestep's death. The lamentable crys that sounded from my heart were heard by my head, but I didn't allow myself to cry, no matter what happens. I will stay strong until the death of me. I told myself, which reassured my head, which seemed to smolder the crys my heart had left, I felt myself grow cold. My heart grew colder... the emotions I once felt had now been taken from me. My joy, happiness, sadness, loneliness, pain, exitement, envy, sympathy, all feelings were now covered in the one feeling I had left. ***Hate.*** The one feeling that was left inside me was the word I once hated, the reason why I came to Earth in the first place. I had once wanted to take that word away from the world, but I now knew why it was here in the first place. Without hate, there would be no joy. I shouldn't have come to Earth. I never should have come here... it was all, *all* a waste of my time. All my efforts werewere wasted. I came here just to have my heart ripped from my chest, that was the only reason I came here. I was a fool, that Dark Forest cat was right all along...

"Echopaw, are you okay? Your shaking.." I quickly snapped out of my thoughts as I turned my gaze to Dustpaw, his face was a mix of greef and worry.

"I-I'm fine..." I meowed in answer, but in truth, I wasn't okay... not one bit. My heart was broken, and the only reason I even want to stay here is because I still have Dustpaw and Rainflower... my dream of becoming leader now seemed like a distant memory. I could leave, but Dustpaw would be sad, Rainflower would be sad, and in reality I would be sad to leave them...

"Do you want to talk about this?" Dustpaw asked me, but I quickly shook my head. I didn't want to talk about Wavestep, it would only cause me more greef.

"I actually want to go for a walk." I meowed to Dustpaw, no emotion showed in my face. It was all gone, I had no emotions left to show.

"A-are you sure? It's going to rain, I don't want you to get sick.." Dustpaw meowed, it was nice he was worried about me, but I really wanted to be alone at this moment.

"I'll be fine...." I meowed as I started to walk away, Dustpaw seemed to notice I wanted to be alone, so he didn't ask to come along. As I quickly pad away, I catch the faint scent of an animal, it wasn't an animal I'd ever scented before... it didn't smell like prey, it seemed like a bigger animal than a cat, I could tell that much by it's paw print. It's scent led to the other side of RiverClan's territory, past the stream that separated the clan from the hunting grounds. I fallowed the scent, swimming gracefully across the stream. The scent seemed to be getting closer... and closer... and.. I suddenly stopped in my tracks once I noticed Wavestep's scent was mixed into this animal's. Did this animal? Did this animal kill my father!?! I screamed in anger as a raced to the animal's scent until I saw it, I saw my father's killer.

Chapter 13

I let a small hiss escape from my lips as I saw my father's killer. A large red and white animal stood before me, his pelt was covered in my father's blood and he growled, hatred within his red eyes. I unsheathed my claws as the animal lept tward me, his large fangs snapping furiously. He was acting crazily, like he didn't care if he died or not, he just wanted to kill something. Why was that?

I quickly moved from side to side as he snapped at me, trying to get a blow. I lept swiftly onto it's back and began to rake my claws against his bare back. He wailed with pain as he began to twist his neck trying to reach me. He continued to snap at me, though he was clearly at a disadvantage. I scrapped my claws along his back bone, showing no hint of fear nor pitty. All I felt was hatred for killing my father, one of that I loved and held dearly. He was now gone from this world, and I would now get my revenge! I continued to scrape his pelt with my claws, until he suddenly ran into a tree, he stopped snapping at me, and his body began to go limp, his body grew cold. I slowly removed myself from the creature's back and looked at his face. He had hit a tree head-on, his skull seemed to have been split open. His mouth was covered in drool and blood, his eyes looked horrible, like something had taken over him.

I suddenly remembered that this was the thing that killed Wavestep and I started to claw at his dead pelt. No emotion showed in my face as I took large chunks out of him, I ripped at his body, until it was all just a big pile of guts and blood. My once grey pelt, was now covered in this animal's red blood, my eyes that were once filled with joy, now seemed like a frozen blue ocean. I felt somewhat relieved, as a drop of rain fell from the sky, I looked up as rain began to drip from the sky. I slowly walked away from the animal, heading to camp. I got my revenge, I was thankful for that much... this world really is cruel, no one has pitty nor cares for anyone but themselves. I hate this world so many have to bare. I

walked onto the stones that led to the other side of the stream, my paws gently touching each cool stone.

~◇~

As I padded into camp, only a few cats were left hanging over Wavestep's dead body. Rainflower, Ripplestar, Dustpaw, Puddleleg, and Riversong. I padded over to them, with my emotionless face, my blood covered body, and my claws with fur still stuck in them. All eyes turned to be as I looked to Wavestep's dead body. I ignored everyone's horror after looking at me, I didn't care what I just did, I avenged father...

"What did you do!?" Rainflower asked me, her eyes filled with horror as she gazed at my blood-covered body.

"I avenged Wavestep, it's a simple as that." I hissed, my emotionless face, seemed to scare her all the more.

"You killed a fox, and all by yourself?" I turned to see Ripplestar with amazed eyes, wide with astonishment.

"So that's what that thing was." I meowed and I heard Dustpaw move from his sitting position.

"You haven't had any training for killing foxes, and yet, you killed one all by yourself.... not even a warrior could *kill* one by themselves with training, let alone an apprentice..." Ripplestar meowed, amazement in his voice.

"Are you okay Echopaw.. tell me the truth." Dustpaw meowed from behind me. I sighed and turned to him, my emotionless face didn't show a hint on giving in.

"I'm fine, I just feel like my purpose of being here is gone, I wouldn't even be here if it wasn't for you, and Rainflower." I meowed as a slightly glaced back at Rainflower.

"What do you mean wouldn't be here? Do you have somewhere else to go?" Dustpaw asked looking at me confusion filled his voice as he asked questions.

"I didn't use to live here, I use to live in a world of dreams. I was never really born on Earth, I was born in the silverpelt, near StarClan." I meowed as all eyes widened at my words.

"What are you talking about!? I gave birth to you, your only life is *here*!?" Rainflower meowed as confusion rang in her voice.

"No, your wrong, I came here because I wanted to destroy all hatred from this world and save all whom lived here. That's why I wanted to become leader, but I've now noticed no one could be happy without hatred. All my ideas were just another dream of mine, I thought I could make real." I meowed as a looked to the sky, rain drops soaking my body to the bone. I slowly closed my eyes as the rain continued to fall, I quickly opened them, all the rain began to slowly stop falling, the dropplets hung I'm mid air as everyone gasped. I turned emotionless to their amazed, yet confused faces and let out four heart chilling words.

"***I hate this world."***

Chapter 14

I let out a small breath as the rain began to fall again. Even I didn't know I could do that...

"Why didn't you tell me?" Rainflower asked, her face showed she was hurt that I didn't tell her.

"Because I decided not to tell anyone. It was my choice." I meowed in response as I looked into Dustpaw's brown eyes.

"So are you going to go back, to your dream world?" Dustpaw asked me as his face became serious.

"No, I will stay here with you guys for the rest of my life on Earth. Once I die, I'll just go back to where I originally came from, just like you guys go to StarClan." I meowed as Puddleleg and Riversong looked at each other.

"I see..." Dustpaw meowed calmly looking into my ice cold eyes. "I can tell your hurt, your eyes are telling me your heart broken, your heart is screaming to let it all out, but you don't want that, do you?" Dustpaw meowed as if he could read my heart.

"I will not cry, no matter what is to happen. I shall not allow myself to become weak like so many others, I will not allow myself to show emotion for it is also a sign of weakness." I meowed as I told him the only beliefs I had left.

"That's not the Echopaw I know, and love." Dustpaw meowed sadly. I opened my eyes wide at his words. "Where's Echopaw?" Dustpaw asked me, but I didn't know how to answer him, I *was* here... wasn't I..? I slowly felt my legs grow heavy and I fell to the ground. Where was I?

~~~~~~~~Inside Echopaw's heart~~~~~~~~
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"You are here, Echopaw." I heard a unknown voice echo through my head. Yes I am here. "You don't need anyone but yourself." I don't need anyone other than myself. "Kill all whom apose you." I will kill all, and anyone who stand in my way.

"Echopaw! Echopaw!?" I hear a voice call out to me in the darkness.

"D-Dustpaw?" I meowed as a light slowly fills the darkness. "I'm here Dustpaw!" I yell trying to stand, but the shadows grab hold of me, pulling me back.

"You shall not leave!" The voice hisses in the shadows, I tug at the darkness but I can't brake free! "Kill Dustpaw, kill him!" The voice said coldly, I shook my head desperately. "Kill him kill him, kill Dustpaw! The one you love." The voice meowed coldly once more.
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Dustpaw's POV

Echopaw screamed as she clawed at the ground, shadows enveloped her entire body as she seemed to be fighting it.

"Echopaw!" I yowled, but the shadows just slammed against me, knocking me over to the ground. "What's happening Ripplestar!?" I asked my father as I searched his eyes for an answer.

"I think that darkness has taken over her heart. Maybe, just maybe a Dark Forest cat somehow took over her body..."Ripplestar meowed. "It's happened before, but we ended up having to kill them... they tryed to kill a kit."

"We're not going to *kill* Echopaw!" I hiss looking at Echopaw, she screamed with agony, her face looked as if she was going through intense pain. "What do we do!? Please! Echopaw stop! Come back to me Echopaw!" I yelled, but it just made her scream harder, and the shadows just squeezed her body tighter. I almost couldn't watch this, it pained me to see Echopaw, the one I loved, in so much pain. "Echopaw!" I yelled to her one last time as the screams of pain echoed through the clearing, every warrior was watching for the side lines, wide eyed in horror. Echopaw slowly arose from where she lyed, her eyes weren't blue anymore, they were tinted black. As
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she slowly walked over to me, I backed away after each step. Her eyes suddenly began to cry tears of black, and he legs wobbled, it looked as if she was fighting what ever was inside of her. "Echopaw, fight it!" I screamed, she stopped moving and stared into my eyes and I stared into her's. Echopaw please come back to me, I don't want to be alone....

Chapter 15

~~~~~~~Inside Echopaw's heart~~~~~~~

"Echopaw come back to me!" I struggled at the shadow's grip as I heard Dustpaw's despite calls.

"Dustpaw! I cried out as tears fell down my face. "Help me!" I yelled kicking at the shadow's hold. I bite down on the shadow, and he let's out a yelp.

"Little cat, just be a good little kit and stay still." The shadows said, covering my mouth.

"Dumshpaf!" I tryed to call his name, but I was half muffled by the shadows. How could I stop him? I could barely move, let alone afflict damage... I tryed struggling once more, but all that seemed to be was a lost cause.

"Just give up cat, give in to the shadows. First you shall kill all whom you hold dear, and thin, you shall join the Dark Forest." The shadows spoke, tightening it's grip on my body. I felt pain begin to swell in my chest as I could barely breathe. Dustpaw where are you?!?
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Dustpaw's POV

Echopaw stood in place, her teeth clamped down and the black tears streamed down her face. The shadows seemed to squeeze her body harder and she let out a yowl of pain. I winced as her face became filled with pain.

"D-us..paw.. " I heard words tremble from Echopaw's mouth and I answered her.

"Echopaw! I'm here, don't worry I'm right here!" I slowly walked over to Echopaw's body, her bloody pelt, her black eyes, her pained face. It was all hard to take in, this was the one I loved, and she was in so such unbareable pain. As I inched closer, the shadows began to get more intense, and started to cut my face. I didn't care anymore, I just wanted to save Echopaw, that was the only thing I wanted to do. Once I reached her body, I pressed my pelt against her's, placed my face against her's, and in twined my tail with her grey-white tail. Echopaw please come back, please...

~~~~~~~Inside Echopaw's heart~~~~~~~

I struggled as I heard Dustpaw's crys becoming more despite. I'm sorry Dustpaw! I'm so sorry, I don't ever want to hurt you! I felt the shadows get tighter as I could see Dustpaw walking toward me. Dustpaw? I watched him walk over to me, the shadows attacking, but he just pressed forward. He quickly approached me, causing the shadows around my body to dissappate.

"Echopaw, I love you." Dustpaw whispered into my ear as we both touched pelts, muzzles, and in twined our tails.

"I love you too Dustpaw." I meowed back, snuggling my face in closer to his, and he gently smiled. I heard the shadows scream and grab ahold of me. "Get out of my heart, I don't need you, the only ones I need are my friends, my family, and all I love." I meowed as the shadows began to fade away, leaving me and Dustpaw together.

"Shall we?" Dustpaw asked me, a smile on his face. I nodded as we both padded out toward the light.
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Once I woke up, I was back in camp, back with Dustpaw by my side. I was lying on the ground as Dustpaw was hunched over crying. I couldn't stand even if I wanted to, I felt so weak.

"D-Dustpaw?" I managed to rasp out as Rainflower and Ripplestar moved near.

"Echopaw, are you okay?" Dustpaw asked as he leaned closer. I weakly nodded as our eyes locked and we both gently smiled.

"Echopaw, I'd like you to rest in Lilacpetal's den for the night. I want Dustpaw to get his wounds cleaned and wrapped up." Ripplestar meowed as Dustpaw and I both nodded our heads. I was glad that Dustpaw saved me, even after I told him the truth. I was glad he was here with me, I really was.

Chapter 16

I slowly arose from my nest, Dustpaw was sleeping beside me in the medicine cat's den. His face looked troubled and worried, it made me feel uneasy.

"Hey Dustpaw, you okay?" I asked while gently placing my tail on his pelt.

"Hmm? Echopaw?" Dustpaw asked as he slowly arose, his head was covered in little spots of moss. I giggled which earned me some confused looked from Dustpaw.

"What's so funny?" He asked as I laughed, tears in my eyes.

"N-n-nothing!" I meowed, trying to force myself to calm down. I gently licked the moss pieces from his matted head. I had never shared tongues, but I guessed this was how if felt, kinda embarrassing.

"Hey Echopaw.. can I ask you something?" Dustpaw meowed as I finished cleaning him up. Oh great here it comes at least there wasn't a long delay for 'can I ask you something', what's he going to make me do? What if he asked me to eat mouse dung, oh **no** way am I ever doing that.

"What is it?" I asked, sighing my death wish. Dustpaw leaned forward, so his soft breath was in my ear.

"Will you-" He was suddenly interrupted by Rainflower, who just then entered the medicine den.

"Oh StarClan are you okay Echopaw? Did Lilacpetal treat you wounds okay? Are you hungry at all do you want something? I can go run and get Lilacpetal if you feel ba-"

"*Mom*!" I yelled as she suddenly stopped in her rambling. Oh great here comes Dustpaw #2, I'm going to die.

"S-sorry, I'm just so happy your okay!" Rainflower meowed as tears began to fill her eyes.

"Really I'm fine, nothing to worry about here." I meowed happily with a small smile. She seemed to understand I wanted 'alone time' and left the medicine den without another word.

I turned my head to Dustpaw, who seemed to be grasping what had just happened.

"You were saying?" I asked as it seemed to snap him out of his thoughts.

"O-ohhh. Yeah, sorry I was just remembering what happened yesterday... how you looked in so much pain." Dustpaw said as he expression grew sad.

"I'm not like that anymore, so don't worry about it!" I meowed trying to cheer him up. He let out alone weak smile and continued to speak him mind.

"Right so will you..."

(A/N Heehee I'm going to stop this here so you can be in suspense, even though I'm just about to write the next chapter. After this next chapter, it'll be the end of book 1 ^-^)

Chapter 17

"Will you become my mate?" Dustpaw asked as I started blankly at his preposition.

"*W-what*?" He didn't just ask what I though he did... did he?

"I want to know if you want to become my mate?" Dustpaw repeated as his eyed darted away from my gaze.

"U-uh, sure, I would be honored." I meowed as I felt hot with embarrassment. Dustpaw's face lit up as we both gave bright smiles. "Oh that's right!" I meowed out randomly, causing Dustpaw to give me a confused glance.

"What is it Echopaw?" Dustpaw asked out of confusion and worry.

"You worry too much, your worse than my mom!" I meowed as I let out a mrrow of laughter.

"A-am not!" Dustpaw meowed back as his once worried expression turned into a frustrated one. I couldn't help but giggle.

"Anyways, I need to tell Ripplestar something." I meowed standing, but Dustpaw blocked my path.

"Tell him what exactly?" Dustpaw asked me as I tryed to move him away, but I just now noticed just how tiered I really was.

"Something important, so move please!" I hissed, but Dustpaw didn't budge.

"Tell me what your going to tell him, if it's so important, it wouldn't hurt if you told me." Dustpaw meowed as he sharpened his gaze on me. I let out a soft sigh, seeing how Dustpaw wouldn't let me go until I told him, I gave in.

"StarClan told me a prophecy; 'echos of the past now reflect off the wind, rain, sun, and clouds. It is up to the powers of one alone, to

save the clans'." I meowed remembering the words of the wise StarClan she-cat.

"I see.... I understand half of what they meant, but you should tell both Ripplestar and Lilacpetal. They might understand it all." Dustpaw meowed as I nodded at his words.

"I was trying to do just that, before you rudely interrupted." I meowed as Dustpaw let out a small laugh.

Echos of the past now reflect off the wind, rain, sun, and clouds. It is up to the powers of one alone, to save the clans

I wounder what that could possibly mean...

StarClan, what do you have in store for me?

End of Book One

Well this is the end of the first book. I will shortly start the second book, but I will just have to make time for it. I hope you all enjoyed the first book of the dream series!

Your's truly,

- Ebonykitty ♡

~Hehe, **21** ~